TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- Most of the country continued to experience below normal rainfall performance during January 1-10, 2017 except few places over Kigoma, Katavi, Mbeya, Njombe, Ruvuma, Mtwara and localized areas in Dar-es-Salaam and Tanga regions that experienced normal to above normal rainfall.
- Prolonged below normal rainfall performance and long dry spell durations caused widespread maize crop failure over the bimodal areas and poor seed germination in some places of the unimodal areas except western regions, southwestern highlands and southern region where crops have established well and weeding is ongoing.
- Farmers over the unimodal area are strongly advised to grow drought tolerant and early maturing crop varieties meanwhile seeking advice from agriculture experts in their localities on timing of agronomic practices.

No: 10 2016/17 Cropping Season **Review for January 1-10, 2017 and Outlook for January 11-20, 2017**

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2017

High pressure systems in the southern hemisphere (St. Helena and Mascarene high pressure systems) relaxed significantly while the ones in the northern hemisphere (Azores and Siberian) intensified. The situation allowed the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to cover some parts of the southern sector of the country but remained diffuse. Slightly warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) were observed over the Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast and over the southwestern Indian Ocean close to the southern coast of the country. The observed slightly warm SSTs over the Atlantic Ocean contributed to keep rains over the west and southwestern sector of the country.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2017

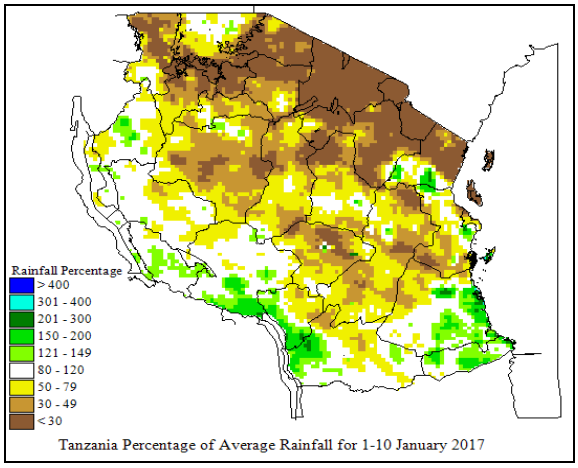

Figure 1: Rainfall performance during January 1-10, 2017 as percentage of long term averages.

In view of the observed synoptic situation during the period, most the country continued to experience below normal rainfall except few places over western, southwestern highlands, southern region, southern coast and localized areas over the northern coast that experienced normal to above normal rainfall as illustrated in Figure 1. Regions where normal to above normal rainfall performance was experienced include Kigoma, Katavi, Mbeya, Njombe, Ruvuma, Mtwara and localized areas in Dar-es-Salaam and Tanga regions.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2017

Prolonged below normal rainfall performance and long dry spells durations caused widespread maize crop failure in most places over the bimodal areas. Permanent wilting of maize crop and some other crops was reported from Kagera, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Mara, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tanga and Pwani regions where maize crop wilted when it was between ninth leaf and tasseling stages. On the other hand, early planted maize crop in some places of Mwanza region such as Sengerema district was at waxy ripeness stage and in average condition. Similarly, below normal rainfall performance and long dry spells durations caused poor seed germination over some of the unimodal areas except western, southwestern highlands and southern region where crops have established themselves well and weeding is ongoing. Pasture condition and water availability for livestock and wildlife remained poor in many places especially over Dodoma, Arusha, Manyara, Simiyu, Shinyanga , Mwanza and Mara regions.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges remained low in many places and seasonal rivers have not yet revived due to prolonged below normal rainfall performance coupled with high evaporation rates.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2017

Southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to remain relaxed while their counterparts to the north are expected to continue intensifying and rapidly pushing the ITCZ further southwards. The slightly warm SSTs over the Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast are expected to persist. This situation is expected to keep rains over the western, central and southwestern parts of the country. On the other hand, neutral to slightly warm SSTs are expected over the southwestern Indian Ocean.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2017

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions): Mainly dry conditions and few isolated rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. North-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Mainly dry conditions and few isolated rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): Mainly dry and few isolated rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions): Rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Iringa, Songwe and Mbeya regions): Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected, especially during second half of the period. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Occasional rain showers and thunderstorms are expected, especially during second half of the dekad. Southern region (Njombe and Ruvuma region): Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2017

The expected rainfall over the unimodal areas will provide favourable conditions for planting and fertilizer application but may sustain long term crop varieties. Farmers over the unimodal areas where poor seed germination was experienced are advised to grow drought tolerant and early maturing crops. Farmers are also advised to get consultation from agriculture experts in their localities on timing of agronomic practices. Over the bimodal areas, poor yield are expected from the *vuli* season crops due to prolonged below normal rainfall performance and consequently crop failures in most places of the bimodal area. Farmers over the bimodal areas are advised to take precautionary measures to cope with poor food production. In addition, livestock keepers are advised to consult Livestock Extension Officers for optimal use of the available water and pasture, including reducing the herd size.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2017

Water levels and river flow discharge are expected to improve in some places of the unimodal areas due to the expected rainfall, especially the contribution of frequent rainfall expected over southwestern highlands and southern region.

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